

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A fuel injection valve comprising:
 - a nozzle body having a nozzle body seat, and
 - a nozzle needle tightly guided in the nozzle body and incorporating a nozzle needle shaft and a nozzle needle seat,
 - said nozzle body seat and the nozzle needle seat together forming a sealed seat,
 - a gap provided axially in height between the sealed seat and the nozzle needle shaft, wherein an outer surface of the nozzle needle runs essentially parallel to an inner surface of the nozzle body in the region of the gap, **wherein the gap is implemented as an elongated recess between the nozzle needle and the nozzle body.**
2. **(Cancelled)**
3. **(Previously Presented)** A fuel injection valve according to Claim 1, wherein the gap adjoins a sealing edge of the nozzle needle seat.
4. **(Previously Presented)** A fuel injection valve according to Claim 1, wherein the sealing edge is provided on a circumferential cylindrical needle section between a nozzle needle tip and a frusto-conical body section of the nozzle needle.

5. (Currently Amended) A fuel injection valve according to Claim 4, wherein the outer surfaces of a conical nozzle needle tip and the frusto-conical body section of the nozzle needle each having an included angle, the included angle of the nozzle needle tip outer surface and the included angle of the frusto conical body havingessentially the same included angle.

6. (Currently Amended) A fuel injection valve comprising:

- a nozzle body having a nozzle body seat,
- a nozzle needle tightly guided in the nozzle body and incorporating a nozzle needle shaft and a nozzle needle seat,
- a sealed seat formed by the nozzle body seat and the nozzle needle seat,
- a gap axially in height between the sealed seat and the nozzle needle shaft,

and

- wherein the gap is implemented as an elongated recess between the nozzle needle and the nozzle body, and
- _____an outer surface of the nozzle needle running essentially parallel to an inner surface of the nozzle body in the region of the gap.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A fuel injection valve according to Claim 6, wherein the gap adjoins a sealing edge of the nozzle needle seat.

9. (Previously Presented) A fuel injection valve according to Claim 6, wherein the sealing edge is provided on a circumferential cylindrical needle section between a nozzle needle tip and a frusto-conical body section of the nozzle needle.

10. (Currently Amended) A fuel injection valve according to Claim 9, wherein the outer surfaces of a conical nozzle needle tip and of the frusto-conical body section of the nozzle needle each have an included angle, the included angle of the conical needle tip having an included angle essentially the same as the included angle of the frusto-conical body section of the nozzle needle.